

House Bill 570

By: Representatives Jackson of the 161st, Murphy of the 120th, and Dukes of the 150th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to technical and adult education, so as to enact the "Career Academies Act of 2007";
3 to provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to provide for the disbursement
4 of funds by the State Board of Technical and Adult Education for career academies
5 established as charter schools; to provide that the Board of Technical and Adult Education
6 divide the state into regions; to provide for a matching requirement; to provide for eligibility
7 criteria; to provide for an annual report; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related
8 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 technical and adult education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:
13 "20-4-37.

14 (a) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the 'Career Academies Act of
15 2007.'

16 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to increase graduation rates, potential job
17 opportunities, and educational opportunities for students by establishing and providing
18 start-up funds for career academies through the partnership of technical colleges and local
19 boards of education.

20 (c) As used in this Code section, the term:

21 (1) 'Board' means the State Board of Technical and Adult Education.

22 (2) 'Career academy' means a specialized charter school established by a partnership
23 between a local board of education, or a group of local boards of education, in
24 cooperation with a local technical college and approved by the State Board of Education
25 in accordance with Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.

1 (3) 'Charter petitioner' means a local board of education, or a group of local boards of
2 education, in cooperation with a local technical college which have partnered to establish
3 a career academy as a charter school pursuant to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.

4 (4) 'Charter school' shall have the same meaning as in paragraph (3) of Code Section
5 20-2-2062.

6 (5) 'Local technical college' means a local technical school, college, or institute under the
7 auspices of the Department of Technical and Adult Education.

8 (d) The board shall be authorized to disburse funds, subject to appropriations or other
9 available funding, to career academies for start-up costs.

10 (e) A charter petitioner for a career academy that has submitted or that has drafted for
11 submission a charter petition for a career academy to the State Board of Education for
12 approval shall be authorized to submit to the board an application for start-up funds. The
13 board shall approve applications for start-up funds for career academies that meet the
14 criteria and requirements, subject to appropriations or other available funding, established
15 pursuant to subsection (i) of this Code section. Funds shall not be released to an approved
16 applicant unless the charter petition is approved by the State Board of Education pursuant
17 to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title.

18 (f) The board shall divide the state of Georgia into five regions. The board shall approve
19 the application of a minimum of one petitioner in each region created pursuant to this
20 subsection; provided, however, that the petitioner meets the eligibility criteria for approval
21 set by the board.

22 (g) The board shall also be authorized to disburse funds, subject to appropriations or other
23 available funding, to existing charter career academies which demonstrate a need for
24 supplemental funding.

25 (h) The board shall establish a matching requirement for recipients of funds under this
26 Code section.

27 (i) The board shall establish eligibility criteria, requirements, and procedures for the
28 disbursement of funding to charter academies pursuant to this Code section. Such criteria,
29 requirements, and procedures shall provide that the board shall consider the strength of the
30 proposed partnership between the local board of education, or the group of local boards of
31 education, and the local technical college as well as the active support of the local business
32 community for the career academy.

33 (j) A career academy receiving funds pursuant to this Code section shall submit an annual
34 report to the board regarding the expenditure of the funds received pursuant to this Code
35 section."

SECTION 2.

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2 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
3 without such approval.

SECTION 3.

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5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.